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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

HO CHI MINH CITY FULFILLS 1980 TROOP RECRUITMENT PLAN

Ho Chi Minh City TIN SANG in Vietnamese 27 Dec 80 pp 1,7

[Article by "LN": "The City Essentially Fulfills Its 1980 Troop Recruitment Plan; Major General Tran Hai Phung Says 1981 Military Obligation Registration and Reserve Forces Registration Is a Permanent Annual Task"]

[Text] TS, 26 Dec -- Ho Chi Minh City has essentially fulfilled its 1980 troop recruitment plan. That is the fifth year the city has such a fine accomplishment. Many units have attained and surpassed their recruit delivery norms. Precinct 3 leads the city by attaining 120 percent; Precinct 4 has attained 113 percent; and Precinct 11 and Hoc Mon District have attained more than 104 percent. Seven other precincts and districts -- Phu Nhuan, Cu Chi, Precinct 6, Binh Thanh, Precinct 5, Tan Binh, and Thu Duc -- are capable of attaining their recruit delivery norms by the end of December 1980. It is also estimated that three precincts -- Precinct 8, Go Vap, and Precinct 1 -- will also essentially fulfill this year's recruit delivery norms. The remaining precincts and districts, and the organs, enterprises, and schools, are also continuing to promote that task. Furthermore, in 1980 more than 4,000 men fulfilled their military obligations, were discharged, and have returned to their families.

Major General Tran Hai Phung, Commander of the people's armed forces and Vice Chairman of the Municipal Draft Council, announced those facts at a press conference held on the morning of 26 December 1980 at the Municipal Command.

He said that this year the city's troop recruitment was carried out fairly and rationally, and that in many instances temporary exemptions were granted because of special circumstances. Some sectors, such as the education, public health, and other sectors, received special consideration with regard to their personnel and work situation, so the city did not assign them troop recruitment norms. Technical workers at Step 4 or above were also granted temporary exemptions. Youths who had received temporary exemptions to study in college were allowed a period of time after graduation to take care of family matters before setting out to fulfill their military obligations. Cadres, workers, and state personnel who received their draft notices but who needed more time to take care of family matters or to reassign their work were also granted extensions. Catholic youths how were ordered to report on 15 December received extensions until after Christmas.

Another special characteristic of this year's two troop recruitment cycles in the city was that thousands of young men and women volunteered to join the army. In

such cases their strengths and aspirations were considered in order to assign them military tasks that were appropriate to their capabilities.

Also during the year a large number of youths who had undergone study and training in the New Youth Development schools volunteered to join the army.

In addition to meticulously carrying out the army's rear area work everywhere, the city is issuing "Military Personnel Family" certificates to families members of which are fulfilling their military obligations, which increases the families' sense of pride and assures the implementation of preferential treatment policies.

As regards the 1981 troop recruitment plan, Major General Tran Hai Phung said that the military obligation registration and reserve forces registration to be carried out at the beginning of 1981 are permanent tasks which are intended to firmly grasp forces so that the city can make troop recruitment plans and assign norms that are fair and rational. That troop recruitment task will be carried out in three steps which are appropriate to the quarters of the economic plan year and the end of the academic year, and which are appropriate to the city's customs, sentiments, and weather.

Furthermore, also in 1981 the task of using demobilized, discharged, and reassigned troops, etc., to replace those who have fulfilled their military obligations will be organized meticulously, in concentrated cycles.

Maj. Gen. Tran Hai Phung answered the questions of press, news agency, TV station, radio station, and other reporters.

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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

HO CHI MINH CITY MILITARY COMMANDER INTERVIEWED ON DRAFT

Ho Chi Minh City TIN SANG in Vietnamese 18 Dec 80 pp 1,2

[Interview of Major General Tran Hai Phung regarding military obligation recruitment: "Great Pride and Confidence in the Revolutionary Tradition of the City's Youths"]

[Text] On the occasion of Army Tradition Day (22 December), TIN SANG met with Major General Tran Hai Phung, commander of the Ho Chi Minh City armed forces, to inquire about the results of military obligation recruitment in the city and the study and training morale of the soldiers who are children and younger siblings of the city's people. The contents of the interview follow:

TIN SANG: During each of the past 4 years Ho Chi Minh City has met its troop recruitment norms. This year, how is our city carrying out its military obligation movement? What are the advantages and difficulties?

Maj.Gen. Tran Hai Phung: After the liberation our city surpassed its military obligation troop recruitment 4 years in a row. That reflects the patriotic tradition of the people, and especially of our city's youths. And there is nothing strange about that. In fact, throughout the years in which the U.S. aggressors and the puppet administration were still ruling people, the youths, workers, laborers, high school students, college students, and civil servants, despite the control and barbarous terrorism of the enemy, in all ways participated in on-the-spot armed struggle or left to join the revolutionary troops and fight in all areas of Eastern Nam Bo, and achieved many glorious feats of arms. Many units and individuals were awarded the title Hero of the Vietnam People's Army, including both young men and young women. We are very proud of the young generation of the city bearing the name of Uncle Ho.

In 1980 we carried out the military obligation mobilization in two cycles. During the first troop recruitment cycle, in August, we surpassed the norm in September. During the second cycle, due to the requirement of expanding the troop recruitment categories in order to be more just and rational, we decided to divide the cycle into two steps. The first step was principally concerned with youths in the rural areas and urban neighborhoods. The second step was concerned principally with organs, enterprises, cadres, workers, state personnel, and graduates of colleges and vocational middle schools. By 10 December we had essentially fulfilled the norm for the first step of the second cycle. And on 15 December we began to recruit troops largely from among cadres, workers, civil servants, college students, and high

school students. Many sub-precincts and a number of precincts and districts have already surpassed their annual norms. Precinct 4 continues to lead the way, followed by Hoc Mon and Cu Chi districts, precincts 11 and 3, etc. Because they made good preparations, the University and a number of colleges and vocational middle schools have completed the delivery of recruits for the first phase, including college graduates, professors, instructors, cadres, workers, and civil servants. The organs and enterprises have also regularly turned over recruits. On the average, one-third of the cadres, workers, and civil servants take turns fulfilling their military obligations (and are replaced by others in 3 or 4 years).

The results have been due not only to the concentrated, unified leadership and work experience of the party committees and the cooperation of the governmental administrations, mass associations, military draft councils, and the leadership committees of organs, enterprises, schools, etc., but also because this year's military obligation policy is more just, rational, and strict.

Its just characteristics: Beginning with the second cycle of 1980, young men and women in all rural areas, urban neighborhoods, organs, state enterprises, schools, and hospitals, regardless of their family background, and no matter what their work assignments, who are fully qualified to be selected for service, must, in accordance with the state's annual troop recruitment plan, serve for the period of time specified by the military obligation law. Thus, so that they can directly participate in the defense of the homeland, all of our youths at the age of 18 must, according to law, fulfill their military obligation, be recruited into the army, participate directly in study and training, fulfilling combat readiness and combat missions while engaging in production labor and national construction. Beginning with the second cycle of 1980, in accordance with our city's troop recruitment plan we will recruit young men between the ages of 18 and 25 in health categories A and B, and will be prepared to accept female Youth Union members and young women who are healthy and want to contribute directly to the defense of the homeland.

The rational nature of this year's second cycle military policy is also very clear and is manifested in the exemptions allowed in specific cases, in accordance with Notice No 197/TB-UB of the Municipal People's Committee. For example, a family with only one child or only one breadwinner, the last remaining son of a war dead family or of a family the other sons of which are in the service (the army or the People's Public Security forces). Students who are completing the last year of general school, who are studying in colleges or vocational middle schools, etc., are temporarily exempt and will serve after graduating. Also exempt are technical workers at Step 4 or above and workers in some sectors, as determined by the Council of Ministers.

The strict nature of the military obligation policy was stipulated in detail by resolutions 191/CP and 192/CP of the Council of Ministers regarding strict measures to be applied in instances of sabotage, misrepresentation, impeding, covering up, and evasion of one's military obligation, on the part of anyone.

The just, rational, and strict characteristics of this year's military obligation policy has brought about contentment and enthusiasm among the people. The actual situation has demonstrated that in sub-precincts, villages, and base-level units in which we carefully explain that policy to the masses, and in which they can openly participate in discussions, participate in selecting the people who will take turns

fulfilling their obligations or be temporarily exempted, criticize and denounce mistakes, evasion, covering-up, etc., and praise the families which do a good job, fulfill their military obligation norms.

Furthermore, the army's rear area policy, caring for the families of the fulfilling their military obligations, and providing a grain ration like those of cadres, workers, and state personnel for families with members fulfilling their military obligation, are being positively undertaken by the party committees, the governmental administrations, and mass association, and have strongly encouraged the youths setting out to join the army.

In addition to the above-mentioned results and basic accomplishments, during the second cycle of this year's troop recruitment we could not avoid encountering a certain number of difficulties. The troop recruitment period was too short, the official norms were not received until October, and the preparatory work was extremely urgent but the scope of troop recruitment was very broad. Furthermore, the organs and enterprises were in the last months of the plan year, so they were very busy: They had to fulfill their production plans while carrying out troop recruitment, doing paperwork, giving physical examinations, etc. Due to that situation, some organs and enterprises feverishly carried out their preparatory work and were resolved to strictly fulfill the legal norms of the state, but there were recommendations that the pace be slowed down a bit.

The centers training first cycle troops had not yet concluded their work and the reception of new recruits was not truly meticulous, so certain deficiencies were encountered.

As far as the families and youths were concerned, December was the last month before the lunar new year, so there was a desire to slow down a little.

In addition to the above-mentioned difficulties, there were some negative phenomena and the ugly plots and schemes of the counter revolutionary elements, who distorted and sabotaged the military obligation policy. Of course, with regard to that gang the people are smart enough to pull them out into the law, and the law will take stiff measures.

TIN SANG: What are your observations about the morale and fighting ability of the troops who were Ho Chi Minh City youths? What points do you think are the most important?

Maj. Gen. Tran Hai Phung: Speaking of the fighting abilities of troops who were youths in this city, as a city youth who left to fight at the beginning of the resistance war, and through the two resistance wars against France and the U.S. was always shoulder-to-shoulder with the people and armed youths of the city, I am very proud and extremely confident. During the long years under the cruel regime and harsh rule of the enemy, the political and armed struggle of the city's youths was extremely heroic. With regard to military struggle, the city's youths have had the honor of having many heroes and heroic units of the people's armed forces. The armed struggle tradition of the city's people, and especially of the city's youths, is very brilliant.

The youth of our city assimilate the new and the good very rapidly, once they undergo revolutionary enlightenment and have taken up a life of study, combat, and collective labor, their spirit of collective mastership, their spirit of solidarity, cadre-enlisted men relations, military-civilian relations, consciousness of organization and discipline, and heroic combat will be outstanding. They have creative minds and quickly learn techniques. The city's armed youth, who have a strong sense of self-respect and sentiment for their comrades in arms, are always respected and supported when they go to the various areas in our country or to international war theaters. For that reason, since the city was liberated the youths of our city have four straight years met the military obligation norms, and the city's armed forces have for 4 straight years kept the circulating Determine-to-win emulation flag and been one of the units leading the "Develop the fine qualities and increase fighting strength of the armed forces" campaign in Military Region 7.

As a cadre who is the commander of the city's armed forces and also the Vice Chairman of the Municipal Draft Council, I am very satisfied about the basic good points and those outstanding points of our city.

However, I must also say frankly that because of the aftereffects of the long-range poisoning politics of the imperialists and colonialists, so our city's youths have also been infected to a certain degree. Furthermore, the great undertaking of socialist transformation in the city has not been completed, and there are still many complications in social life. Those objective factors are still exerting a certain effect. The phenomenon of wanting to do as they please during the period just after they enter the army, unfamiliarity with collective life, inability to bear the material hardships the first time they are away from home, etc., have at times and in places given rise to a desire to do as one pleases and lax discipline. Those are deficiencies of which we are well aware, and we are certain to overcome them in the near future.

TIN SANG: How will the Municipal Draft Council satisfy the legitimate aspirations of the youths from the families of officers, workers, and officials of the old regime who want to contribute to defending the nation?

Maj. Gen. Tran Hai Phung: With regard to that matter, during the past several years I have many times replied that the real aspirations of youths with such backgrounds have been favorably met. Many youths whose fathers were officers, even high-ranking officers, in the old regime, have become soldiers who fight and work skilfully.

Notice No 197 of the Municipal People's Committee regarding troop recruitment during the second cycle of 1980 clearly stated that "No distinctions will be made regarding family origins." That means that the principal political standards of youths who have the honor of fulfilling their military obligations and join the regular army depend on each individual. Our city has been liberated for more than 5 years and its youths have had ample time to understand the rights and obligations of citizens of an independent, free country. The policy of national conciliation and the elimination of prejudices and complexes among the people has multiplied the strength of solidarity of all the people. I appeal for youths, no matter what their social origins, not to have an inferiority complex, but to strive to advance. Our country and army are prepared to greet those of you who go all-out to serve your homeland.

TIN SANG: In addition to their combat readiness and combat missions, how are the city's army units doing in fulfilling their economic construction mission?

Maj. Gen. Tran Hai Phung: Our army has two basic missions: fulfilling its combat readiness and combat missions and national construction. Those two missions reflect the nature of the People's Army and bind together the army and the people. Our army is a fighting army, and economic labor and mass proselyting army. Our city's troops also fulfill those missions. According to the time and place there must be plans to both directly engage in combat readiness study and training and participate in economic construction. Some units participate in industrial, agricultural, and forestry economic work, and some combine coastal defense with fishing and saltmaking. Some units cooperate with the technical bases and colleges to study and experiment with topics which serve national defense. All units, no matter where they are stationed, must organize stock raising and vegetable growing in order to improve their living standards, and also have plans to produce part of their grain.

When our city's youths enter the army, although they are from the city and at first many people are very inexperienced in production labor, they have the advantage of being very quick to learn. They are usually good with their hands, and many of them have good technical skills. If they are thoroughly educated regarding the army's two missions, they will be inferior to no one with regard to both combat and economic work.

TIN SANG: What are the rights of youths fulfilling their military obligations and their families? After they have completed their military service, what arrangements will be made for them in civilian life?

Maj. Gen. Tran Hai Phung: The resolution regarding living conditions of the Second Municipal Party Congress dealt with the party's care for the armed forces. And recently Circular No 4 of the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee, on the occasion of Tradition Day (22 December) of the army, dealt very specifically and practically with that matter. The Standing Committee dealt with the implementation of the policy regarding the armed forces and semi-armed forces deeply and broadly. The policies regarding the military obligation, the Assault Youth, and the army's rear area must be implemented continually, urgently, and permanently, and not in fits and starts or once in a while. In addition to the system of preferential treatment politically and the material alliances promulgated by the state, the circular of the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee also referred to the system of providing grain at supply prices to families members of which are fulfilling their military obligations, just as it is provided to workers and state personnel. In order to be prompt and straightforward in implementing the policies, while openly honoring the families of youths fulfilling their military obligations by issuing them papers acknowledging that they are families of military personnel and issuing them grain ration books as soon as possible. Recently the precincts and districts have implemented those directives, so the families have been very content and confident.

One family asked me "My son has been fulfilling his military obligation for 3 or 4 years. When will he fulfill that obligation, and when he returns, what about his study and employment?" I responded, "The young men will, in their turn, be demobilized and discharged in the near future. In fact, recently some of them have returned to the schools, public offices, and the economic and cultural sectors of

the state. However, large-scale discharges must depend on whether there are sufficient well-trained recruits to serve as replacements. Only if there is a solid source of replacements can large numbers be discharged every year. It is certain that after the 1980 troop recruitment norms are filled many youths will fulfill their military obligations and return to civilian life.

The discharged military personnel will receive priority in obtaining employment or in continuing to study, in accordance with the policy. In principle, organs with cadres, workers, or personnel who are fulfilling their military obligation can, when they have been discharged, rehire them to replace the cadres who have not yet gone. Youths who have letters of acceptance to a school but must go to fulfill their military obligations may, after their return, enter the school without being reexamined or, if they must take an examination, they will be given bonus points. Youths who had been unemployed will be able to select an appropriate trade provided by the state. The time served in the army will be counted as continuous work time as far as eligibility for systems and policies is concerned. The children of military personnel and discharged military personnel will also receive priority in obtaining employment or in taking vocational training in our country and abroad. Furthermore, youths who in the process of fulfilling their military obligations devoted their sentiment and energy to building the army and want to continue to serve in the army for a long time will be selected to train to become regular officers, and of course will receive the benefits according to the officer laws of the Vietnam People's Army.

TIN SANG: How do you evaluate the role of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union in troop recruitment at present?

Maj. Gen. Tran Hai Phung: Troop recruitment is a broad campaign among youths and the various categories of people, including the cadres, workers, and state personnel, under the leadership of the party committees and the governmental administrations. Developing the positive role of the Youth Union organizations is a decisive condition which will ensure the success of that campaign.

Our city's Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union has been very active and has contributed much effort to fulfilling the troop recruitment norms in the precincts, districts, and schools. Outstanding examples are Sub-precinct 6 in Tan Binh District, Sub-Precinct 1 and 16 in Precinct 4, Sub-Precinct 12 in Precinct 8, and the villages of Thoi Nhut in Hoc Mon District, Hiep Binh and Linh Dong in Thu Duc District, etc.

The Union has entered deeply into soliciting and collecting the aspirations and opinions of the various categories of youths and the families in the troop recruitment areas, and have reported them to the party committees, the governmental administrations, and the Draft Council, in order to assure the correct implementation of the systems and policies. The Union has recommended many very good contents and methods for encouraging the city's youths to enthusiastically enlist in the army. The Union cadres participating in the military draft councils at the various levels have gained much experience this year, so they have been able to play a positive role. The Union is endeavoring to make the annual enlistment celebration a major celebration of youths defending the homeland.

TIN SANG: Finally, do you have any advice for the youths of Ho Chi Minh City?

Maj. Gen. Tran Hai Phung: I wish that our beloved youths of the city which has the honor of bearing the glorious name of President Ho Chi Minh will always fight, study, and work according to the example set by the great Uncle Ho.

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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

GUIDANCE GIVEN CONCERNING 1981 MILITARY REGISTRATION

Ho Chi Minh City TIN SANG in Vietnamese 30 Dec 80 p 1

[Article: "Guidance on Military Obligation Registration and Reserve Troop Management Statistics for 1981"]

[Text] On 25 December 1980 the Municipal Draft Council issued guidance on the implementation of Notice No 231/TB-UB dated 24 December 1980, of the Chairman of the Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee regarding military obligation registration and reserve troops management statistics for 1981. The text is as follows:

1. The organs and enterprises at the central and local levels may organize their own registration. All youths who are officially employed by them as of 1 January 1981 must register, with no exceptions.

a. Reserve troops registration, Category 1 (separate list): Registration of reassigned, demobilized, or discharged who are working in the organ or enterprise and are 45 years of age or younger (from the enlisted ranks to Lieutenant Colonel).

b. Reserve troops registration, Category 2: Youths who have not yet fulfilled their military obligations and are between 18 and 35 years of age (born 1945-1963), divided into the 18-25, 26-30, and 31-35 age groups. (They should be placed on a separate list, in accordance with the accompanying form).

2. Time and methods:

The date 1 January 1981 is the base date for determining whether youths are officially on the rolls or not.

The date 3 January 1981 is the deadline for determining which youths are officially on the rolls.

On 5 January 1981 the organs and enterprises must synthesize the statistical lists and send one copy to the chairman of the local precinct or district people's committee, and three copies are to be sent directly to the Municipal Draft Council (to the Troop Recruitment Mobilization Bureau of the Municipal Command), which will sign and seal two copies and return them to the organ or enterprise.

With regard to youths who were on the rolls in or before 1980 and whose names are on the list, the organ or enterprise which made up that list will directly manage the implementation of the military obligations law.

Youths who are not on the rolls are the responsibility of the locality, and the precinct or district manages the implementation of the military obligation law.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

DISTRIBUTION OF PACKAGES RECEIVED FROM ABROAD IMPROVED

Ho Chi Minh City TIN SANG in Vietnamese 18 Dec 80 p 7

[Article by Nguyen Van Han: "Some Improvements Made at the Places Where Foreign Goods are Distributed"]

[Text] TS, 17 Dec -- The municipal postal organs, Tan Son Nhut airfield, and the IMEX Corporation, with the advice of the specialized sections of the Municipal People's Council, have made a number of improvements which have brought about a number of encouraging results.

Last week a number of representatives of the Municipal People's Council inspected those places. They said that there was no longer a large backlog of postal parcels, there has been a reduction of thievery, reports are made on stolen goods, responsibility is determined, and there is swift justice. At present, each day Tan Son Nhut airfield handles between 800 and 1,000 parcels. The Municipal Post Office and the substations handle between 1,200 and 1,800 parcels. IMEX handles 100 to 200 parcels every day.

When they visited the No Co zone in sub-precinct 11, Tan Binh District, representatives Nguyen Viet Han, Kieu Mong Thu, and Nguyen Van Han observed that there was no longer standing in line and selling places in the line at No 27 Nguyen Dinh Chieu, as in the past, and that the jostling when customers went to the station to pick up their packages had been reduced to a minimum. Furthermore, Tan Son Nhut airfield always has sufficient buses for the customers, Sub-precinct 11 arranged for the safe parking of the customers' private transportation facilities, such as bicycles and Hondas. Customers coming in from the provinces have place to stay overnight, etc.

The representatives recommended to the responsible organs there that they should take Tan Son Nhut airfield customers to the waiting area in the middle of the old bank housing area, and rapidly provide a waiting place with a roof to protect against rain and sun, while advising customers that they should not arrive too late, for if they arrive at the station and wait until 0530 there will always be a bus to take them into the airfield.

The representatives also said that Tan Son Nhut airfield is studying ways to help customers in our country avoid deprivations. At the same time, the state is increasing its foreign exchange earnings from remittances. Furthermore, Tan Son Nhut airfield is also preparing to experiment with taking goods to the sub-precincts to distribute them to customers, in order to stop collusion and the use of counterfeit papers to pick up goods.

At the Municipal Post Office the representatives recommended that that organ rapidly conclude an internal inspection and present the results to the collective whole for evaluation, especially such retrogressions and negative acts as stealing customers' goods, stealing state goods, etc. The representatives also studied some basic problems brought forth by the Municipal Post Office, such as the lack of warehouse space, waiting stations, materials for repairing telephones, facilities for postmen, technical repair personnel, etc., in order to recommend that the Municipal People's Committee examine them and give assistance.

The representatives also recommended a number of steps the Post Office must take to rapidly distribute goods sent by overseas Vietnamese to their relatives in Vietnam during the coming Christmas and lunar new year holidays.

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INTERVIEW WITH NGUYEN VO DANH ON LIVING CONDITIONS IN HO CHI MINH CITY

Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 30 Dec 80 pp 1, 4

[Interview with Nguyen Vo Danh, Vice Chairman of the Municipal People's Committee, by SAIGON GIAI PHONG Reporter: "What Do We See in the Implementation of the Resolution on Living Conditions?"]

[Text] [Reporter] For nearly 3 months, our city has implemented the resolution of the Second Congress of Party Organization Delegates on urgent measures to solve certain specific problems relating to living conditions. Will you please, comrade, tell us what result has been obtained in stabilizing the life of the laboring people in the city and what is the most outstanding achievement?

[Nguyen Vo Danh] The resolution on "urgent measures to solve certain specific problems relating to living conditions" is really a comprehensive one. Not only does it set forth specific goals to attain to gradually stabilize the laboring people's life but it also settles many other problems concerning the distribution, circulation and balance of currency and goods, the disentanglement of snarls, the vigorous and direct promotion of production and the building and consolidation of the party, administration and mass organizations.... Among these problems, living conditions are the central one which is considered most urgent by the laboring people and which affects them most directly.

Concerning grain, in addition to ensuring that supplies are steady and timely and meet the fixed standards and that the state-directed price is applied, the Municipal Grain Corporation has actively made purchases at a business-oriented price [gia baor dqamr kinh doanh] and thus has always a certain quantity of rice at its disposal to be able to positively participate in the market, to bring the rice price down and to continuously stabilize and normalize it.

Concerning pork, the city has correctly implemented the 26th resolution of the Political Bureau and removed obstacles with regard to price, purchasing procedures and management decentralization, thus bringing about a notable change in the task of purchasing live-weight pork in localities. In only the first 15 days of December, the state-operated commercial sector and the cooperative commercial sector were able to buy a quantity of live-weight pork equal to that bought in both October and November.

Concerning peanuts, purchase was very difficult in the previous years but has become much more satisfactory this year. To date, peasants in Cu Chi have sold to the state 70 to 80 percent of their peanut harvest. The purchase of sugar canes is being carried out under favorable conditions in the rural districts. Peasants in a number of villages have pledged to sell to the state. Moreover, the purchase of other agricultural products such as fresh vegetables and sugar has been more satisfactory than before.

In short, delightful progress has been made in purchasing goods and taking hold of their sources though difficulties have not yet been completely removed.

Besides, we have another very important source of agricultural products such as pork, vegetables, fish and grain which the various organs, units and enterprises have produced on a self-sufficient basis in conjunction with the application of the three-interest principle. This is also a noteworthy and rather important local source of goods which helps improve the meals of cadres and manual and office workers in every unit.

Over the past few months, the amount of goods diverted toward the city by the central level and that purchased from the provinces by the city have also increased continuously.

All the aforementioned factors have positively contributed to gradually stabilizing the living conditions of cadres, manual and office workers and laboring people in the city.

[Reporter] Please tell us how the supply of 10 categories of goods as required by the resolution has been effected by the distribution and circulation sectors and by the precincts and districts and also what has been done or not?

[Nguyen Vo Danh] The resolution on living conditions deals not only with those 10 categories of goods. It clearly specifies that of these 10 categories of goods, 7 must be steadily supplied in kind while the remaining 3--vegetables, fish and pork--must be supplied either in kind or compensated by money according to our ability to purchase goods and grasp their sources. However, at a time when the wage rate has not yet been improved, the Municipal Party Organization, precincts, districts and distribution and circulation sectors have wittingly tried to gradually limit the payment of compensation money and, instead, to move forward toward the supply in kind of goods that meet the qualitative standards and have a nutrient value so as to further stabilize the living conditions of salaried employees of the state and their dependents. If this is done, it will further reduce the difficulties encountered by cadres and manual and office workers in their living conditions.

Generally speaking, in supplying the various categories of goods indicated in the resolution, we have begun to obtain some important results the most outstanding of which being achieved at the precinct and district level. It can be said that almost all precincts and districts have, on their own, acquired enough pork to supply to cadres and manual and office workers and have also been able to supply such goods as vegetables and fish either in kind or under the form of compensation money. Some precincts and districts have also been considering the possibility of either supplying goods in kind or paying compensation money to their personnel's dependents.

What is encouraging is that many precincts and districts have progressed in their business and raised an increasingly large fund for the purchase of goods and that some of them have been able to take in charge 5 to 7 of the 10 categories of goods indicated in the resolution, thus contributing to expanding the municipal common fund for the purchase of goods. A number of precincts and districts have proposed to the municipality that they will supply pork even to the cadres and

manual and office workers of both the centrally-run and municipal agencies who are working within their respective areas. At present, there remain only a few precincts and districts which cannot yet obtain enough pork and which must, therefore, request the municipality to lend them a hand by supplying them with part of their pork requirements.

Moreover, through the network of the state-operated and cooperative commercial sectors, the precincts and districts have brought their goods into the market to participate in the struggle for price management.

The precinct and district level has rather quickly examined and ratified the supply of goods and the payment of compensation money; most precincts and districts have finished with the standard pork supply and with the payment of money to compensate for two types of goods--vegetables and fish--to cadres and manual and office workers for the 3 months of October, November and December 1980.

An initial improvement has been noted in the distribution of goods to cadres and manual and officer workers of agencies, units and enterprises managed by the municipality and the central level. The distribution of seven monthly and quantitatively fixed categories of goods has been effected rapidly on schedule without dragging on for months as in the past. Nevertheless, apart from these initial achievements, there remain certain problems requiring continued solution, especially regarding the provision of compensation money which is still slowly carried out.

[Reporter] There is the opinion that the resolution on living conditions pays attention to stabilizing only the life of the salaried employees of the state and not that of the laboring people outside the aforementioned sectors. Is that true? In other words, does the resolution have any effect whatsoever on the stabilization of living conditions in the society as a whole?

[Nguyen Vo Danh] First, I must say clearly that our party has the duty to directly care for the living conditions of all people in society, especially the laboring people. This standpoint permeates the spirit and letter of the Second Party Organization Congress resolution. In addition to the specific objectives and requirements set forth to gradually stabilize the living conditions of cadres, manual and office workers and the armed forces who are encountering the greatest difficulties, the resolution has also put forth a series of measures on goods purchase and control, struggle for market management and solution to difficult problems facing poor laboring people (poor peasants and people living on sidewalks). These measures are aimed at gradually stabilizing social life. (In this respect, it must be added that the state supplies 10 categories of essential goods to cadres, manual and office workers and their dependents--all of whom number 1.2 millions representing more than 1/3 of the city population).

The resolution has also had a definite effect on the city people in general. For example, the state-operated and cooperative commercial sectors have brought into the market a fairly large quantity of rice at a lower price than outside and of an ever better quality (while bad quality of rice can still be found in some areas and must be eliminated). This move has helped gradually lower the grain price at various markets. In addition, the prices of pork and fish have been firmly maintained and restrained though the Tet is nearing.

These realistic actions have contributed to effectively checking the tension and fallacious price hike caused by dishonest traders and have been coordinated with administrative measures to make market management more effective.

[Reporter] The 26th resolution of the Political Bureau and the municipal resolution on living conditions make a great demand on the distribution and circulation sectors which, accordingly, must really engage in commerce, consider profit and loss, bring about realistic economic effects and quickly eliminate the habit of doing business and providing supplies with administrative formalities and in a pluralistic and far-spreading fashion. To do so, it is obviously necessary to take a step and effect a major, uniform change in the domain of concept, guidance and organization of task implementation. Will you please tell us to what extent our city has fulfilled the aforementioned demand?

[Nguyen Vo Danh] In this respect, it must be said that the distribution and circulation sectors of the city, precincts and districts have made an encouraging, important initial change in their business method.

Commercial units--state-operated and cooperative--have concentrated their efforts on the key tasks in order to meet the most pressing demand of life. They have done so out of necessity because if they have done otherwise or continued to apply their old business method, they would be unable to fulfill the "order" for 10 categories of essential goods placed by the resolution on living conditions and also unable to raise funds to pay compensation money. The following points clearly illustrate the initial change effected by commercial units:

- Deeper understanding of the actual consumption needs of cadres, manual and office workers and laboring people and, on this basis, determination of business objectives and methods.

- Efforts to move forward in doing business according to two price lists, to expand the scope of activity and to grasp sources of goods more firmly with the aim of raising compensation funds and, simultaneously, to begin improving the method of distributing and delivering goods of a better quality into the hands of the right consumers.

- Real awakening from the former habit of doing business in an administrative and pluralistic fashion--followed by the present endeavor to overcome it.

Through the implementation of the resolution, precincts, districts, subwards and villages have further heightened their sense of responsibility in caring for the life of cadres, manual and office workers and laboring people and have seen the need to engage in business, to consider pros and cons and to stop relying on and waiting for aid from the municipality. In particular, many subwards and villages have displayed a self-help attitude in acquiring large amounts of goods and selling them at business-oriented prices, thus actively participating in the struggle for price management at local markets.

Precincts and districts have realized difficulties, opportunities and their own potentials more clearly and have grasped local sources of goods more firmly in order to rationally organize purchase, circulation and distribution, thus contributing to reducing the difficulties encountered by the local laboring people in the present complex situation.

The banking and financial sectors have displayed more keenness in using money to bring about realistic economic effects; they have used receipts to make up for expenditures and profit to compensate loss, rapidly paid money to recipients and reaped a rational income.

Mass organizations, especially the Women's Union, have positively participated in purchasing goods and grasping their sources.

Generally speaking, the implementation of the resolution on living conditions has led to changes in all sectors--from production to distribution and circulation and from political motivation to the building of organizations. These achievements are merely initial ones but prove very correct and appropriate.

[Reporter] To our knowledge, so far many units have not yet received the compensation money; even though the grant of compensation money to some units had been examined and ratified 15 days ago, the money has not yet been paid to cadres and manual and office workers. Please tell us the reason for such a delay and who are responsible for it?

[Nguyen Vo Danh] Prior to the implementation of the resolution on living conditions, there were shortcomings left behind by the former management mechanism which required solution. In the course of implementing the resolution, new elements have emerged simultaneously with new contradictions which require quick solution.

Under such circumstances, a delay in the payment of compensation is bound to happen, caused by the old shortcomings and the newly emerging contradictions. Out of a total 1,300 organs, enterprises and units managed by the central level and the municipality, so far only 616 have had their compensation cases examined and satisfied and only 3/4 of them have received compensations. Following are some reasons for the delayed payment of compensation money related to vegetable and fish supply for the fourth quarter:

--Though the Municipal Party Committee and People's Committee have issued instructions on the need to reduce formalities in examining and ratifying compensation payment in order to avoid causing inconveniences, a survey has revealed the continued existence of many stages and levels and that the examination and ratification task, in particular, is still entirely entrusted to the commercial sector.

--There has been a failure to carefully guide the application of the necessary regulations on compensation and to promptly resolve and remove specific entanglements. This shortcoming can be found, for instance, in the examination and ratification of cases involving various categories of manual and office workers who are on the rolls, who work on contract or who are paid on the day as well as their dependents.

--It has been found during the examination and ratification process that many units have failed to accurately assess the size of their personnel or their numerical strength and that there is a fairly large number of "ghost" personnel and quotas--nearly 2,000 "ghost" quotas in 200 units. This calls for lengthy collation and reexamination. In addition, the number of dependents including household dependents submitted by various units has proven inaccurate and great discrepancies appear when this number is compared with the previous figures.

A further study reveals these remote causes:

A good many supply receiving units are still relying on others. The heads of the units concerned and the party committees or chapters, trade unions and youth union in these units have not yet assumed the principal and direct responsibility for the living conditions of their cadres and manual and office workers. Therefore, in implementing the resolution provisions on compensation, they have entrusted this task to a few cadres and employees and subsequently submitted inaccurate lists to the commercial agency and have also neglected to follow the outcome of compensation.

Meanwhile, the Commercial Service which is directly responsible for examination and ratification has been working day and night but has been slow in obtaining result because it has had to repeatedly collate and examine the lists submitted by the units concerned. Though there are too many units subjected to examination and ratification, the Service has not yet gathered together the necessary personnel, conducted research and taken specific measures to quickly carry out this task. Countless difficulties and obstacles encountered by these units have not yet been promptly resolved.

[Reporter] Please let us know what kind of guidance has been provided by the Municipal Party Committee and People's Committee to overcome the delay in compensation payment.

[Nguyen Vo Danh] In this connection, the Municipal Party Committee Standing Committee has assessed the situation and the Municipal People's Committee has issued Circular No 16 setting forth specific guidance measures to be taken by the various sectors and echelons concerned with the payment of compensations.

It is necessary for these precincts, districts and sectors to reorganize guidance and to modify their working methods in order to make sure that the payment of compensations for the indicated goods for the three months of October, November and December be completed by the end of December.

[Reporter] Please let us know about the tasks to be immediately carried out by the distribution and circulation sectors to continue the implementation of the resolution on living conditions.

[Nguyen Vo Danh] Right now, the distribution and circulation sectors must exert still greater efforts to purchase goods and must move forward to deal in many more categories of goods. If any kind of goods can be purchased in large quantities and if dealings in these goods prove satisfactory, it will then be possible to gradually reduce supplies in kind as well as the payment of compensation money so as to induce cadres and manual and office workers to buy goods, especially the fresh and raw ones, from the commercial sector. This method will be applied to vegetables in the first quarter of 1981.

Along with strengthening control over sources of goods, commercial units will study ways to improve the supply method with the objective of delivering goods to consumers rapidly, rationally and equitably and ensuring that the goods meet the qualitative and quantitative standards.

Simultaneously with the aforesaid tasks, it is necessary to study ways to organize and manage the market, to master the "free" market with regard to certain essential goods and to selectively employ the small-trader forces including a number of experienced merchants. This course of action will help limit trading competition on the market and teach private traders to associate their personnel interests with those of the society and to gradually give up exploitative and dishonest trading methods.

To satisfactorily implement the resolution on living conditions, the distribution and circulation sectors must continue to shift to the new business method, to oppose administrative and pluralistic practices and to intensify business to meet the real needs of the laboring people. On the other hand, the supply receiving organs and units must assume direct responsibility for the living conditions for their cadres and manual and office workers.

Joining forces to shoulder responsibilities and solve difficulties is an essential condition for successfully carrying out the resolution.

[Reporter] Thank you, comrade.

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ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

TAX EVASION BY PRIVATE BUSINESSMEN CRITICIZED

Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 23 Dec 80 p 4

["Saigon's Many Faces" Column by Quang Vu: "Tax Evasion"]

[Text] Tax evasion is comparable to a chronic disease affecting a number of private producers and businessmen. These people are a type of patients who are afraid of physicians and who would rather let the disease grow ever more serious than seek treatment. Though afflicted for long with the tax evasion "microbes" which have been free rein and have brought the disease into a "chronic" stage, a number of these persons are still trying to make a healthy and clean appearance.

The most noticeable symptom of this disease is the queer, sudden loss of memory suffered by the patient who usually has a very good memory and mathematical skill. If the disease is still benign, a half, 1/3 or 1/4 of the patient's memory will be left; if it has become too serious, only 1/10 or less of his memory will remain. This is 100 percent true as demonstrated by the recent inspection of tax evasion patients when a number of them could "remember" only 1/10 of their business turnover and actual profit.

Another symptom is the fact that the patient usually speak fluently but suddenly becomes "dumb" or speaks incoherently whenever a tax cadre comes to do his job.

In the private production field, apart from the abovementioned two symptoms, some persons afflicted with the tax evasion disease show another defect which is characterized by the habit of using their fidgety hands to scrape documents and records and make corrections in order to conceal income and profit.

The tax evasion disease is a hereditary one transmitted by capitalist business. To cure it under the present circumstances in our country, the foremost and extremely important medicine is the need for the patient to take prophylactic and therapeutic measures himself.

However, there is the happy news that recently a number of patients suffering from the tax evasion disease have managed to cure themselves by exactly following the instructions given in a very effective medical book entitled: "Regulations on the Registration of Private Business" which has just been published.

What is the gentry still afflicted with the tax evasion disease waiting for till they prescribe a medicine for themselves according to that famous medical book?

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ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

NHAN DAN EDITORIAL URGES DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ECONOMIC FACTORS

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 15 Jan 81 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "Strengthening New Factors"]

[Text] In carrying out economic activities, it is not easy to detect difficulties completely and scientifically but it is still more difficult to find ways and measures to overcome these difficulties. Realities in productive labor life have confirmed that the "poverty makes for stupidity" saying is untrue and that, on the contrary, "poverty elicits cleverness." There has scarcely been any year when imbalance affected so many aspects of the national economy as in the past year which, however, saw the emergence of many new factors. The serious aftermath of consecutive natural calamities could not check agricultural progress in a number of northern provinces. The Nam Bo provinces reaped several bumper crops in a row and contributed twice as much grain to the state as in the previous years. The product contract system applied to laborers in agricultural cooperatives and the method of paying wages according to the end product in state-operated enterprises is creating a new impetus for the productive labor movement in many areas. A positive illustration is the fact that labor discipline has been strengthened, that labor productivity has increased, that obvious progress has been made from the point of view of economic efficiency and that the producer's income has been raised and living conditions improved. Each sector and locality have detected their own problems and, on this basis, built up new typical models having a convincing effect. In addition to provinces such as Hai Hung and Thai Binh which have a traditional skill in agricultural production, Haiphong and Vinh Phu are localities with innovated working methods. Along with Vu Thang and Dinh Cong [cooperatives], there have emerged many cooperatives with a new management method such as Tho Tang (Vinh Phu), Minh Tan (Haiphong) and Nghia Thuan (Nghe Tinh). Among state-operated installations, the Con Dao Fishing Enterprise, Pho Yen Ball-bearing Factory, Nam Dinh Textile Combine and Railroad Corporation No 6 have registered initial achievements in letting out entire projects on contract. By regularly letting out transportation trips on contract, River Transport Enterprise No 210 has accelerated the rotation of means and equipment. An Giang and Minh Hai are still taking the lead in mobilizing grain. Kien Giang and Tien Giang have collected an income higher than envisaged in the budget. Ho Chi Minh City has taken the initiative in creating sources of export goods. Novelties constituted by multiform models have flourished in the midst of difficulties.

No economic achievement has been made by chance and no progressive model has spontaneously come into being. A series of new factors have recently emerged under the action of correct concepts and policies. The resolutions of the party and government--especially the Sixth Party Central Committee Plenum Resolution and Resolution No 26 of the Political Bureau--have been applied to life whereupon they act as if with a material strength because they have indicated clear guidelines for grasping the economic law, modifying the pluralistic administrative method of management, bringing into play the laborers' right to collective ownership and gradually disentangling ties in order to bring about a production boom. Attention has been paid to exploiting all economic constituents' potentials and using all organizational forms having the effect of promoting production development. Both moral motivation and material stimulus are considered important. The laborers' interests are closely associated with those of the collective and society. Progressive models are a manifestation of the line and policy in the ideological life; they demonstrate and enrich these ideological thoughts by concrete experiences and by pointing out the progressive trend. We find in the advanced models a new feature of a working style involving consideration for economic effects and guarantee of the three types of interests.

It is always impossible for novelties to achieve perfection in no time at all. In the course of implementing novelties, there remain certain shortcomings to overcome and errors to rectify. However, the correct, good, positive and wholesome aspects are principal. One must not obstinately cling to any outmoded management method or organizational form which must be urgently changed under the present circumstances of life. Nor must one hastily brush aside the newly emerging factors because they contain imperfections. A good seed or breed selector is one who has the virtue of carefully studying each plant variety or animal species and who delicately fosters each new bud. [Likewise,] our leading and managerial organizations need constantly follow and help advanced units, consider typical models important, promptly detect new factors and continuously strengthen them. Let us build the most suitable piece of land on which separate novelties may grow into popular ones throughout the society and where our moving economy may receive a boost and take vigorous and steady steps forward toward development.

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ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

AGRICULTURAL PURCHASING SYSTEM IN SOUTHERN PROVINCES CHANGED

Ho Chi Minh City TIN SANG in Vietnamese 30 Dec 80 p 2

[Article by Thach Ngoc: "Reviewing Some Developments in the State Purchasing of Agricultural Products and Foodstuffs in the Southern Provinces"]

[Text] Based on their actual experience, nearly all provinces regard commerce as the central concern of the over-all task of distribution and circulation. If we do not control commerce, it is certain that we cannot control the sources of goods, stabilise living conditions, money, and market prices, or assure the value of the salaries of wage laborers.

That view will become more evident when we examine some developments regarding the various aspects of the commercial work especially state purchasing in order to control the sources of agricultural products and foodstuffs.

Controlling Sources of Supply

The southern provinces have rich sources of agricultural products and foodstuffs. With regard to pork, it is estimated that each year that area sends to market between 120,000 and 140,000 tons of live hogs. In fact according to an actual investigation 100 hogs were marketed by a certain hamlet in Bac Lieu city, while statistics showed only 70. Thus the actual number might be even higher.

In 1978, a year in which we were promoting the transformation of private capitalist commerce, and the year in which the greatest volume of meat hogs were purchased, the total purchased was only about 35,000 tons (in the area north of Quang Nam-Da Nang). That quantity steadily decreased, to about 20,000 tons in 1979 and 18,000 tons during the first 9 months of 1980. The situation was similar with regard to the other foods, such as vegetables, legumes, etc.

According to the recapitulations of some relevant sectors, previous state purchasing policies and measures were coercive and were not appropriate to the commodity and monetary relationships in the economic situation of the south. That was one of the important factors which led to the decline in products purchased by the state. The materials supplied to the producers at low prices by the state, which practically gave them away, gave rise to many negative matters, such as adulteration, skimming. At the same time, the state purchase prices of foodstuffs were set too low. The price of live hogs on the market was 14 to 15 dong per kilo, but the purchase price paid by state commerce was about 5 dong per kilo. The price of soybeans was at times

9 or 10 dong per kilo on the market, but the state price was only 2 dong per kilo. The market price of sugarcane was 300 dong per ton, while the state purchase price was 48 dong per ton. Such prices did not serve to attract sources of goods.

Furthermore, there were many limitations in the organization of state purchasing. Some of the state purchasing stations passively waited for commodities to come to them, instead of keeping close tabs on the production areas in order to mobilize the sources of goods. Sales were moderate, the purchase prices were low, there was insufficient cash, and state purchasing was done in only one place. That buying and selling structure, added to the fact that market management was not responsive and flexible, etc., resulted in the quantity of agricultural goods reaching the hands of the state steadily diminishing.

Creating a New Transformation

Resolution 26 of the Political Bureau regarding distribution and circulation, which was intended to rectify the state purchasing structure and policies, brought about a number of new transformations.

On the basis of the aspirations of the peasants, the state sells them industrial goods at prices that are approximately equal to the market prices. The peasants may purchase them when they need them, and do not have to make exchanges for them based on corresponding ratios, as in the past. Similarly, production means will also be sold at high prices to the producers. Of course, prices will be more favorable for the specialized cultivation areas than for the nonspecialized areas, and will be higher for collectives than for individuals.

At the same time, the state will purchase agricultural products at negotiated prices. During the recent sugarcane season, in order to assure that the producers could avoid being pressured by the sugarcane merchants when the sugarcane was ripe, and at the same time to assure the corresponding regulation of the young plants, the state kept sugarcane prices above the market prices. Sugarcane with 10 percent sugar content was purchased in the fields at prices between 300 and 360 dong per ton; bulk sugar was purchased at the price of five dong per kilo (while the market price was between 4 and 4.5 dong), and Tay Ninh hard brown sugar was purchased at 6 dong per kilo (while the market price was about 5 dong per kilo).

With that purchasing structure the state is capable of doing an increasingly better job of controlling the sources of agricultural goods but production continues to develop according to plan.

The situation regarding the state purchasing of agricultural products during the last months of 1980 -- when we began to apply the new purchasing structure -- developed favorably. During the first 9 months of 1980, on the average state commerce bought only 1,500 tons of hogs a month, but in October that total increased to about 2,000 tons, in November it increased to 2,500 tons, and in December it may reach 3,000 tons, five times greater than during the first month of the year. That capability may also be shown in January 1981, the month prior to the lunar new year. Ho Chi Minh City received 1,500 tons of meat hogs in October and November. Thus the city may far surpass the 2,200 ton norm for the fourth quarter of 1980. With regard to another commodity, during the past several years it was difficult to purchase as much as 4,000 or 5,000 tons. But this year the amount purchased will

be about 8,000 tons. Dong Nai Province alone has purchased 5,000 tons, an all-time record. Similarly, in previous years state commerce had never been able to purchase as much as 4,000 tons of hard-made sugar, but this year it will purchase 10,000 tons.

Those greatly increased figures show the prospects for state purchasing in order to grasp the sources of agricultural products, with the new purchasing structure in the southern provinces.

Some Points Requiring Rectification

However, some localities do not yet completely understand that structure, and do not uniformly combine the three benefits. Materials are sold at varying low prices which, although high than the guidance prices of the past are lower than the price levels called for by Resolution 26. At the same time, some places have bought agricultural products at excessively high negotiated prices. For example, the market price of soybeans in Dong Nai Province was six dong for kilo but the state purchase price of soybeans in a Mekong Delta province was nine dong per kilo. With such state purchasing prices, many places have produced a surplus for the local budget. Thus it is clear that such localities are only concerned with the interests of the peasants and the locality, and forget about the interests of the workers and the state!

Furthermore, with an economy that has the characteristic of commodity production, the law of value still exerts a very strong regulatory effect on the market, especially when individual production continues to play a key role in many production areas. In that situation, socialist commerce must positively participate in organizing production, in order to lessen the tendency for production to chase after the law of value on the market. Materials are sold at high prices, but it is still necessary to sign two-way contracts in order to bring production into the sphere of planning. Otherwise it will be difficult to maintain the planned area of the 2,000 hectares devoted to growing vegetables for domestic consumption and export in Lam Dong, or the 40,000 hectares of soybeans in the Mekong Delta region.

Experiences in Organizing a State Purchasing Network

The actual experiences of some provinces which have had a high level of state purchasing during recent months have shown that even if they buy at negotiated prices they will not be able to control the sources of goods if they do not improve the state purchasing organization.

Specifically, with regard to the soybean-growing area in Tan Phu District, Dong Nai Province, we have only set up three state purchasing points -- at Phu Tuc, Phu Loc, and Dinh Quan, so it is certain that we will not be able to control the sources of supply in the upland fields tens of kilometers away. To attain the volume of 5,000 tons of soybeans this year, Dong Nai Province is mobilizing all of three state purchasing forces in the province -- the Agricultural Products-Trade-Trust Corporation, the combined corporations in the districts, and the marketing cooperatives in the villages -- in order to extend the network to the sources of supply. Therefore, private merchants are no longer to take soybeans to Cholon via Trang Bom, as they did in the past.

Similarly, in Long An Province for the past 3 months the quantity of agricultural products purchased by the state has increased every month. In addition to applying a new formula of making state purchases at negotiated prices, Long An Province has boldly used private merchants in the state purchasing network, created a new position for socialist commerce, and brought private merchants into the orbit of state activities, so that they no longer stand on the outside and cause trouble, as in the past.

At present, 60 percent of the hogs purchased by the state in Long An are due to the use of the skills of local merchants. The merchants registered to engage in commerce and formed purchasing teams to go to the places of production to buy hogs from the peasants at prices 5 dong per kilo less than the state purchase price and resell them to the local state purchasing stations. Those merchants invested 2 million dong in cash and such facilities as boats, scales, etc., in order to perform that service, so the state incur no expenses. Due to a chain-action effect, the small merchants who sold meat retail in Tan An City had no meat to sell, so they also registered to sell pork at retail prices for the state at guaranteed commercial prices.

Thus the new state purchasing structure that is taking form can persuade the private merchants to voluntarily go along with the state. Of course, that is also a rather subtle and complicated task that can be compared to using a double-edged sword, so not all localities can boldly carry it out. There are even some places which still believe that to use private merchants to make purchases for the state is to "act contrary to policies." In fact, the correct policy to increasingly further the development of production in order to continually improve the people's living conditions and create strength for the economy.

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ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

OPERATIONS OF CHANH HUNG FISH MARKET IMPROVED

Ho Chi Minh City TIN SANG in Vietnamese 23 Dec 80 p 2

[Article by M. Chau: "Improving the Receiving and Distribution of Fish at the Chanh Hung Station"]

[Text] After the last fish in wicker baskets were taken ashore the pilot of the boat Ben Nghe 129 guided the boat toward the middle of the channel. At the same time, the loudspeaker of the Chanh Hung fish station made the appeal, "We request the boat Phu Khanh to prepare to unload fish," and a moment later another boat tied up at the wharf and the porters of the Binh Dong port rapidly brought baskets of cod fish, snapper, pomfret, blue fish, etc., from the hold to the station. It was midnight.

Receiving and Distributing

Chanh Hung station, which was in the past an area of operations of fish wholesalers, is today a commercial base that is part of Foodstuffs Corporation No 3. It is responsible for receiving the various kinds of fish and distributing them to the retail stores, organs, enterprises, hospitals, schools, day care centers, etc., throughout the city. In addition to the fish brought directly by the boats, the station also receives fish from Minh Hai, An Giang, Thuan Hai, and other provinces, via the local state purchasing stations, which are brought in by truck every day.

The station's personnel guide the Binh Dong port workers in sorting the fish according to grade in order to determine prices. For example, grade 1 snapper fish are priced at 3.8 dong per kilo, the 2d grade are priced at 3.3 dong, and the 3d grade are priced at 2.4 dong. Then the fish are distributed to units according to the order in which their requests were made.

The distribution of fish is a complicated matter, for truckload of fish includes many different kinds, sizes, and qualities of fish. The distribution personnel must firmly grasp the status of the various kinds of fish on the truck -- how many good-quality and poor-quality fish there are -- in order to divide them relatively uniformly among the units, and avoid the situation of one unit receiving high-quality fish while another receives lesser-quality fish. The station uses poor-quality fish to make fish sauce.

At the beginning of November 1980, in accordance with the new distribution formula the station began to supply fish to the precinct and district seafood stores, so that they could redistribute them to the organs, enterprises, day care centers, etc., in their areas. Furthermore, the fish were trucked directly to the seafood stores.

Since the beginning of the fourth quarter of 1980 the station has also expanded the scope of its commercial activities, and has supplied fish to the consumer cooperatives and small merchants at negotiated prices. For example, it sold grade 1 cod fish at the price of 15 dong per kilo and pomfret and snapper fish at the price of 14 dong per kilo.

Storage

In order to store fish at that receiving station, each day it receives thousands of blocks of ice from the Thang Loi and Huu Loi enterprises which also belong to Food-stuffs Enterprise No 3. It then supplies the ice to the fishing boats and the seafood stores. The units come to obtain fish they are supplied ice at the ratio of 15 blocks of ice per ton of fish. The consumer cooperatives and small merchants purchasing fish at negotiated prices are allowed to buy a block of ice for 3 dong, for every 100 kilos of fish purchased.

In the event that fish are received in excessive quantities or too late to be distributed in the same day, they are sorted and iced in large wicker baskets.

At present, the quality of the fish received directly from the fishing boats is relatively high, but the fish brought in by truck from the provinces are of relatively low quality, for they are loaded and unloaded many times and spend more time in transit. For example, in the case of fish received from Thuan Hai, fish are taken ashore from the boats and sorted, and then salted on a truck. When they arrive at the station the fish are unloaded, are graded by the station personnel, and are then distributed to the units. The average transit time is more than a day, during 6 hours of which the fish are not iced because they are being sorted or weighed.

Organization of Personnel

In order to rapidly receive and distribute the fish when they arrive, the station operated seven days a week, night and day, without interruption. More than 100 people working in the purchasing, distribution, financial, sanitation, refrigeration, and protection elements, are divided into two shifts, each of which works a full day and rests a full day.

Since October 1980 the corporation has provided each employee one dong to buy lunch. Those working the night shift receive a bonus of .4dong. That money is given to the kitchen so that it can prepare such dishes as sweet soup, meat rolls, and noodle, and some of the profit earned from goods sold outside the plan is set aside to reward outstanding personnel selected by the collective. Furthermore, in accordance with a recommendation made by the station's trade union committee, beginning in November 1980 the corporation provided evening workers with an additional dong every day for their evening meals.

Some Recommendations:

With its new business and management methods, the Chanh Hung fish station is well on its way to increasing output and expanding its ability to serve, and has conditions for improving the living conditions of its workers. Having listened to the opinions of some of the workers, we recommend that to ensure that fish will still be in good condition when it reaches the consumers, with regard to fish shipped from the provinces, when the fish are unloaded from the boats the state purchasing personnel should sort them according to grade before they are weighed and salted in baskets. Those baskets should be clearly marked with the grade and quantity of fish they contain, so that when the fish arrive at the station they will not have to be dumped out and sorted and it will be possible to keep track of quantities.

With regard to personnel, before September 1980 everyone worked 24 hours straight and got 48 hours off, and anyone who had to work on Sunday was paid doubletime. However, for a time the corporation, because of limited supplies caused by difficulties in state purchasing, assigned some people to other jobs and changed their shifts as mentioned above.

But according to the opinions of some of the workers, such as Nguyen Thi Kim Dung of sales team No 3, she has to be present at the state wheter there is much fish or little fish, so she cannot take care of her work at home. Furthermore, for 2 months now there has been a clear increase in the volume of fish received. In October 1980, 340 tons were received, which was nearly double the previous month's volume, and in November 1980 478 tons of fish were distributed. Therefore, the corporation must study the rationalization of the shift workers' rest periods, or appropriately increase supplementary allowances, according to time on the job.

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ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

BRIEFS

ILLEGAL LUBRICANTS POSSESSION—Oil and grease are needed to lubricate, repair and maintain motorcycles and bicycles but are not retailed by the commercial sector. Nevertheless, vehicle owners and repairmen have always obtained enough oil and grease from factories and shops by resorting to theft, underhand practices and commercial dealings. Though deemed beneficial to the saving of material supplies, the refusal to retail oil and grease to consumers has actually brought about a substantial waste! [Text] [Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 15 Jan 81 p 3] 9332

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AGRICULTURE

'NHAN DAN' EDITORIAL STRESSES IRRIGATION OF WINTER-SPRING FIELDS

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 14 Jan 81 p 1

[Editorial: "Water for the Winter-Spring Crops"]

[Text] In the coming years, the water conservancy task will be heavier than in the past because its objective will be to secure water to irrigate 4 million hectares of rice and 400,000 hectares of subsidiary food crops in order to achieve a gross output of at least 15 million tons of grain in 1981 and to simultaneously and strenuously extend irrigation to the area cultivated with foodstuff crops and important industrial crops.

According to the water conservancy plan, forces will be concentrated on serving key zones with great potentialities in order to rapidly produce large amounts of goods, especially grain and foodstuffs in the area of the Mekong and Red River Deltas. At the same time, due importance must be attached to the irrigation and drainage of other areas such as the Central Highlands, Eastern Nam Bo and so forth which are capable of yielding large quantities of agricultural products for export and solving the grain and food problem on the spot.

In carrying out surveys, planning and construction and in protecting and using water conservancy works, an important guideline to be followed is to pay attention to the need to strictly apply regulations and to concentrate on carrying out tasks uniformly, completely and neatly in order to achieve high technical quality and quickly reap the greatest economic benefit. At a time when the capital and materials available are scarcer than in the previous years and when natural calamities may happen unexpectedly, water conservancy can fulfill its duty according to plan if its potentials are developed.

Along with rice, most of the subsidiary food and industrial crops of the year are sown and grown in spring during the winter-spring season which is the most comprehensive production one. According to forecasts by the meteorological-hydrological and water conservancy sectors, serious and protracted drought may happen this year. During the current winter-spring season, the total rainfall and basic water current of rivers in North Vietnam are likely to be lower than the average level in many previous years. The sources of water supply from reservoirs and dams will dwindle. The raining season is beginning in the southern provinces.

The various localities, production installations and responsible sectors-- especially these three ones: water conservancy, agriculture and electricity-- must have a plan to closely coordinate their efforts to ensure enough water for irrigation throughout the production season. Though the winter-spring season last year was faced with a 6-month drought, a well-organized coordination of activities enabled us to secure enough water to overfulfill the planned area for sowing and planting.

As specific conditions permit, the various regions and production installations must seek by all means to preserve fresh water in fields. In view of the limit supply of electricity, gasoline and oil, areas irrigated by pumps must draw water into large canals to obtain a source of water; it is advisable for them to bring water onto the fields' surface by employing hand-operated irrigation and bailing facilities. Efforts must be made to limit the use of electric and oil pumps wherever bailing is possible with buckets and water-wheels. In areas automatically irrigated by the action of tides, it is necessary to thoroughly dredge canals and to regularly post men at sluice gates to promptly take in fresh water.

Water must be brought only into those fields and crops which are in need of water and this must be carried out in strict accordance with technical requirements. It is first necessary to bail water into seedling and duckweed fields and already plowed and harrowed fields to make it possible to transplant seedlings when they become mature. A rational dry-wet plowing ratio must be fixed in proportion to the irrigation water available. Wet plowing must be done where there is not enough water for dry plowing. If the dry-plowing area is to be expanded, an essential ratio of wet-plowing fields must be fixed to multiply duckweeks and also for use in case of scattered and protracted crop cultivation. If there is not enough water this year to transplant rice seedlings onto too high fields where transplanting was usually compulsively performed in the previous years, initiative must be taken to grow subsidiary food crops in these fields instead of leaving them fallow.

There are many areas of acid and brackish soil in South Vietnam's provinces. Local conditions in each area must be taken into account in carrying out appropriate projects such as building sea dikes and embankments to check salinity, dredging canals, ponds and wells to retain fresh water and drilling deep wells to tap underground water. A number of localities which are expanding the cultivated area to thousands of hectares more during the current production season must try to protect production by preventing drought, acidity or salinity from causing any loss of or decrease in the cultivated area.

Ensuring enough water for crops is a primary technical measure. We must overcome all difficulties to provide sufficient water for the winter-spring crops in order to contribute to satisfactorily carrying out the grain production plan.

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AGRICULTURE

LARGE-SCALE EXPANSION OF SUGARCANE PLANTING IN SOUTH

Ho Chi Minh City TIN SANG in Vietnamese 17 Dec 80 p 3

[Article by VVS: "Capability of Developing Sugarcane Cultivation in the South"]

[Text] In addition to the enthusiasm about the coming 10th-month rice crop--with sowing and transplanting overfulfilling targets in favorable weather conditions, and fairly high output expectations--southern provinces and cities are preparing to gather the first part of this year's sugarcane crop, the largest in the past 3 years, according to estimates. The General Statistics Department says that the 1980-81 sugarcane yield of the provinces south of Thuan Hai may reach 3.2 million tons, nearly double the 1978-79 figure (1.71 million tons).

For those interested in the future of sugarcane cultivation in the south, such rapid and sudden expansion following many successive years of decline is not only an indication of recovery, but it also presages a bright expansion of that indispensable and multipurpose industrial food crop in the next few years.

Before liberation, sugarcane planting in the south, minus Long An Province, was concentrated in the area between the southeastern provinces and the delta of the central coastal provinces, where locally grown grain was insufficient to feed the population. Following liberation, it developed strongly for a year or two before shrinking gradually as a result of internal and external factors, such as a region-wide grain pinch caused by pests and floods in the western provinces, inadequate investment, and chiefly a sugarcane purchase policy termed unrealistic by growers. Consider Tay Ninh, the leading eastern sugarcane grower: from 14,000 hectares in the 1975-76 season, its planting acreage was down to just one-fourth that figure in 1978-79. The farmers replaced sugarcane with potentially "more rentable" subsidiary food and grain crops, such as manioc, slash-burn upland rice, beans, etc. Meanwhile, because of difficulties in purchasing and shipping sugarcane, the modern state-owned, high-capacity sugar mill in the region had run short of raw materials, although supply then exceeded demand. The reason is that the bulk of sugarcane supplies were absorbed by privately operated artisan shops. In the 1979-80 season, for instance, all four state-owned sugar mills combined (Binh Duong, Hiep Hoa, Quang Ngai, and Thap Cham) were able to process only some 136,000 tons of sugarcane--just the run of a single mill in the 1976-77 season.

Attractive Purchase Policy

To remedy the situation, last October the Ministry of Food applied a new purchase policy--"worthy of acclaim, and truly appealing to the producers," according to

sugarcane planters. Without doubt, the new purchase policy was behind the vigorous growth of sugarcane cultivation in the south, as evidenced by the present sugarcane crop. In the east alone--Tay Ninh, Song Be, and Dong Nai provinces and Ho Chi Minh City--the sugarcane acreage has increased by at least 50 percent compared with the preceding year's.

Grow Sugarcane Outside Traditional Areas?

Discussing the attractive new purchase policy, a Southern Sugar Corporation official told us that the west, which set aside a negligible amount of acreage for sugarcane before liberation, has switched to abundant planting in the past 2 years, even surpassing the east. In fact, in recent days western representatives have asked the corporation to purchase their sugarcane production. Ben Tre Province alone has been ready to supply the corporation with 120,000 tons of sugarcane from this year's harvest.

The 1980-81 sugarcane crop in the Mekong Delta provinces may reach 1.7 million tons (from 39,000 planted hectares, including 11,000 hectares in Ben Tre, 11,000 hectares in Hau Giang, 7,000 hectares in Long An, 4,000 hectares in Tien Giang, etc) as compared with an estimated 719,000 tons from 17,000 hectares for the east. This fact provides food for thought: is it advisable to strongly develop sugarcane cultivation in the west and transform that region into a major grower next to the traditional southeast? That fast clip of expansion in the west in recent years has run counter to some past expectations. To be exact, the west's planned role as a specialized rice grower does not clash with the concept of interplanting sugarcane with rice--as countries with a developed agriculture are doing--a measure intended to properly capitalize on soil potential and favorable weather conditions. Why not consider the planting of sugarcane on the vast unclaimed tracts of alkaline soil in U Minh and the Plain of Reeds, which are adverse to rice planting right after reclamation? Besides, this will help meet local sugar needs. On the basis of these external factors which caused sugarcane cultivation to multiply in the west, it is clearly necessary to devise long-term planning for sugarcane cultivation in that region.

Role of Artisan Shops and Semimechanized Mills

Unlike the situation with subsidiary food crops, the development of sugarcane planting must go hand in hand with the building of processing centers. Presently, high-capacity sugar mills across the south can absorb a maximum 600,000-700,000 tons of sugarcane a year--just one-fifth this season's volume of production. Moreover, the building of a sugar mill similar to that in Binh Duong (with a running capacity corresponding to about 4,000-5,000 hectares of sugarcane according to present productivity standards) necessitates tens of millions of dong in foreign currency for equipment, a time period of 2 to 3 years, (1 to 2 years for planning and assembling, and 1 year for the dry run, not including the time required for placing orders and importing the needed equipment, etc), and hundreds of scientific and technical cadres of all levels from the fields of agriculture, building, polytechnics, etc, with skills in sugar production. In light of the present situation, this fact attests to the importance of development construction investment and to the need for reorganizing the artisan network in a rational way--notwithstanding their considerably wasteful processing methods--to fit in with a

rapid and vigorous expansion of sugarcane cultivation in the coming years, so as to meet consumer needs, find ways to raise the sugar processing rate, and build additional up-to-date sugar mills in sugarcane areas.

Scientific-Technological Investment: Urgent Requirement

It can be said that, except for a number of specialized state farms recently set up in the east, the scientific, technological, and material investment in sugarcane cultivation in recent years has hardly been significant, mainly in the research field. Although we have had a number of promising strains for many years, we continue to use worn-out and disease-fraught strains which were created some 20, 30 or more years ago. The use of fertilizer and fungicide is still very limited. That is why the sugarcane yield averages only 40 tons per hectare now, instead of 60-80 tons or more. To enable sugarcane planting in the south to grow rapidly, strongly, and steadily, these basic flaws must be corrected soon by properly investing in science, technology, and research, and by providing for more means and supplies.

Snags Ahead

In recent years, the parallel operations of two sugar processing systems--the modern state-owned, high-capacity sugar mills and a network of artisan shops--has given rise to differences and to a noticeable damaging impact on both production and consumption. For instance, the Binh Duong sugar mill could not work at full capacity, since it lacked the means to purchase and ship sugarcane back from Duong Minh Chau, Tan Bien (Tay Ninh), and Tan Phu (Dong Nai) over 100 kilometers away, while the sugarcane market close to the mill, encompassing Go Dau, Trang Bang, Lai Thieu, etc, was cornered by the artisan network. The bulk of this year's production will certainly go to artisan shops. Past abuses have already resurfaced in some places--sugarcane growers being forced by private traders to sell at prices below the state's, and by artisan shops to pay more on processing contracts. Therefore, the thorny problem now confronting the grain and food branch as well as local authorities is how to buy up most sugarcane supplies and to ensure purchase privileges to state-owned mills. At the same time, rather than prohibit artisan shops from operating--a measure that has considerably hurt production in some localities--they must come up with a rational purchase plan for artisan shops with a view to using up this season's volume of production, in accordance with the state plan on purchases and contractual sugar processing, so as to protect producer and consumer interest and stabilize market prices.

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AGRICULTURE

ACUTE LACK OF TRUCKS TO HAUL SUGARCANE REPORTED

Ho Chi Minh City TIN SANG in Vietnamese 17 Dec 80 p 3

[Article by Phung Huu Hat: "Resolving Difficulties in Shipping Sugarcane"]

[Text] This year, despite a bumper crop of sugarcane in many areas and an increase in the volume of production, large sugar mills are still running short of raw materials. For instance, the Binh Duong sugar mill, which needs 1,500 tons, receives only one-third that amount.

The present sugarcane shortage was caused not by insufficient purchases but rather by poor shipping. The mills' own trucking fleet can haul only one-third of the expected cargo. According to the division of labor, the communications and transport branch in the provinces must handle the remaining load. In fact, fewer provincial trucks have been put in service due to a tire shortage. Tay Ninh Province has been able to devote only 20 trucks a day to sugarcane hauling, instead of 35 according to plan. Likewise, Dong Nai Province has responded to the 35-truck-a-day request with only 10 vehicles. The sugar mills have asked the transport enterprises in Ho Chi Minh City for 35 trucks, but since last October, when the sugarcane season began, the latter have failed to line up even a single vehicle.

Trucking snags have not only caused sugar mills to run short of raw materials for operation and to reduce their runs, but they have also hurt sugar production and held off the coming 10th-month crop.

Within 24 hours--or 48 hours at the latest--after being cut, sugarcane must be processed in order to keep the sugar content intact. Presently, because of scarce shipping facilities, it takes sugarcane 3 or 4 days to reach a sugar mill by road, and over 5 days by riverboat, not to speak of unloading deficiencies adding a couple of more days to that delay. Although the sugar mills give farmers a 1-percent depletion allowance to make up for unloading snags, a sizable quantity of sugar has already been lost through the slowed-up loading process.

The slackening pace of the sugarcane harvest due to poor shipping does not permit the farmers to get their land ready for the coming planting season. In a number of areas, sluggish cane cutting has led to overripening and to a considerable loss in sugar content.

To remedy that situation, the Southern Sugar Corporation has taken flexible steps to solving the fuel problem and fully utilize shipping facilities. The corporation

has provided fuel in advance not only for its own fleet but also for other provincial transport units. Without that timely measure, the shipping pinch would have been more severe.

However, this is only an urgent stopgap solution. The important thing to be done is for provincial and city transport units to furnish enough trucks and fuel to carry the cargo of sugarcane as scheduled.

In the long run, many measures should be carried out to solve the shipping problem--to begin with, an increase in river shipping facilities. A number of sugar mills have signed up with privately owned boats capable of moving from 10 to nearly 100 tons, for sugarcane shipping. The Hiep Hoa sugar mill receives 1,500 tons of sugarcane daily from riverboats. In short, river shipping is slow but more economical, allowing more purchases from farmers living far from the highways. Next year, if river shipping is expanded as expected, the sugar mills will receive their raw materials at an earlier date, thus making them less vulnerable to hazards.

Also with a view to solving sugarcane shipping difficulties, a policy designating purchase zones for large sugar mills must be carried out soon. Presently, the sugarcane fields surrounding large sugar mills are being reserved for the artisan shops, while these mills must purchase sugarcane in localities about 100 kilometers away. For instance, the Binh Duong sugar mill must ship sugarcane from Tan Phu (Dong Nai Province) and Tan Bien (Tay Ninh Province), while the Song Be area is earmarked for artisan processing shops.

This is not rational, since sugar processing calls for supplying sugarcane within a radius not over 10 kilometers from the mill. Areas lying beyond that radius must be reserved for artisan shops.

Each sugar mill should be allowed a limited trucking fleet, because seasonal use gives rise to waste. But without its own trucks, the mill is compelled to depend on contractual shipping, thus once again exposing itself to shipping hazards. To rectify that situation, the sugar corporation in the near future will be allotted fuel for use in contractual shipping.

All of this shows that a solution to sugarcane shipping does not lie exclusively in increasing the number of trucks. It also requires enthusiastic support from many sections and branches--mostly from the sugarcane-growing provinces.

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AGRICULTURE

TIEN GIANG HOG POPULATION GROWS

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 13 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] VNA--Tien Giang has now 175,500 hogs representing a 2.2-percent increase over 1978--the year with the largest hog herd ever since the liberation day.

After the great floods of 1978, the animal husbandry sector has restored material-technical bases and created conditions for increasing the hog herd. Breeding farms have overcome difficulties caused by a shortage of pigsties and farms and have also motivated the people to raise hogs. The Livestock Raising Corporation in Go Cong Tay District, My Tho City, has been raising 1,000 sows satisfactorily and has purchased nearly 3,000 breeding hogs to rapidly obtain and develop a herd of good-stock sows.

In addition to supplying fodder to state-operated units, the Fodder Corporation has sold a noteworthy quantity of fodder at the agreed price to hog breeders. Animal husbandry installations have used crushing machines to process subsidiary agricultural products and marine products into synthetic fodder for hogs.

The veterinary sector has taken many prophylactic measures to protect hogs. In 1980, the sector immunized 68 percent of the entire hog herd.

The province has planned to develop animal husbandry in 1981, to formulate procedures to encourage animal husbandry, and to create favorable conditions for collectives and individuals to raise hogs.

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AGRICULTURE

SOUTH VIETNAM GROWS WINTER-SPRING RICE, HARVESTS TENTH-MONTH RICE

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 15 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] VNA--During the 10-day period from 25 December 1980 to 5 January 1981, the South Vietnam provinces from Quang Nam-Danang southward, especially the Mekong River Delta ones, raised the tempo of the winter-spring rice cultivation and performed sowing and transplanting on 104,696 hectares, bringing the area subjected to sowing and transplanting since the beginning of this season to 398,135 hectares and fulfilling 59.2 percent of the plan norm. The provinces of Ben Tre, Quang Nam-Danang, Long An, Phu Khanh and Tien Giang accelerated sowing and transplanting and fulfilled 30.8 to 78.2 percent of the plan norm. Only 5.3 to 14.1 percent of the plan norm were achieved by Tay Ninh, Song Be and Lam Dong Provinces and Ho Chi Minh City.

At the height of the tenth-month rice harvest, the southern provinces harvested 206,534 hectares, raising the area harvested since the beginning of the season to 701,438 hectares, and also carried out sowing and transplanting on 35.10 percent of the planned area; in this respect, Lam Dong, Gia Lai-Cong Tum, Nghia Binh and Quang Nam-Danang Provinces achieved from 81.9 to 91.7 percent of the plan norm. The harvest of the slash-burn upland rice and the early tenth-month rice was basically completed with a fairly good yield. The provinces which grew the floating rice also began the harvest.

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LIGHT INDUSTRY

NHAN DAN EDITORIAL CALLS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ARTISAN INDUSTRY, HANDICRAFTS

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 13 Jan 81 p 1

[Editorial: "Exploit the Huge Potentials of Artisan Industry and Handicrafts"]

[Text] The huge potentials of artisan industry and handicrafts have been demonstrated in the course of state plan implementation and economic construction and development. The year 1980 was marked by an acute imbalance among energy, supplies and raw materials. Despite this situation, the artisan industry and handicraft sector managed to fulfill relatively high norms though it failed to carry out the state plan. More than 10 provinces achieved a gross output value higher than that for 1979. Though suffering from serious sabotage by the enemy, the four mountainous provinces of Cao Bang, Lai Chau, Hoang Lien Son and Lang Son restored and developed production at a higher rate than in the previous year. Many more delta districts contributed to raising the gross output value of artisan industry and handicrafts to over 10 million dong. Hundreds of cooperatives in various provinces overfulfilled the 1980 plan norms. A fairly high development rate was attained in the production of many categories of goods such as kenaf rugs in Hanoi, Hai Hung and Thai Binh, plows and hoes in Son La and Thanh Hoa, bricks and tiles in Thanh Hoa and Hai Hung and so forth.

An outstanding feature was the fact that, following the issuance of the Sixth Resolution of the Party Central Committee and Resolution No 26 of the Political Bureau, many installations developed production according to the indicated trend and, by firmly adhering to the state plan, improved organization and management, economically used materials and found out substitutes, reduced expenditures and increased the volume of products and goods as well as their business turnover and income. In the space of a year, the Sao Mai kenaf rug cooperative (Hanoi) raised its production of 32,990 square meters in 1979 to 50,000 square meters in 1980. While using local materials to substitute for rare ones in an ever more satisfactory manner, many cooperatives sought by all means to use all kinds of materials in combination to develop goods varieties. Using domestic raw material sources, the artisan industry and handicraft sector created a number of new goods of economic-technical value which realistically profited the national economy. These categories of goods included organic glue used in making hats; tannin; powder fodder derived from mangrove fruit [quar sus vetj]; gypsum derived from salt-marsh water; powder colors made of local minerals; ball bearings, chains and freewheels for bicycles; surgeon's gloves made to international standards; various types of rubber pads and hermetic hoses for the transportation and electronic industries; optical machines; military equipment and so forth.

The district, city, provincial, municipal and even central levels made noteworthy efforts to solve certain problems relating to the system, policy and organization of material supply, to guide handicraft development in the agricultural sector and to establish relationships of economic-technical cooperation among the association of interbranch handicraft cooperatives and various localities and organs outside the branch.

The progress made have confirmed the vast potentials of artisan industry and handicrafts but have also shown that these potentials have not yet been exploited most satisfactorily. Though supplies and raw materials are considered food for artisan industry and handicrafts, attention has not yet been really paid to the need to take the initiative in building up sources of materials and especially in exploiting the domestic and local ones. Not much has been done to create and grow sources of raw materials and there has even been a decrease in the cultivated area and the volume of production in many areas. Faced with a shortage of electric power, gasoline and oil, many areas have failed to promptly shift their industrial structures and methods, to actively use manual labor and improved implements instead of mechanized labor and to consider it important to exploit local sources of coal for use as a fuel. Within the agricultural cooperatives' scope, handicrafts constitute an important reserve for creating jobs for laborers and increasing their income and also for producing a substantial material wealth for the society's benefit without requiring the investment of a large capital. However, handicrafts have not yet been developed continuously. Because of a failure to boldly modify managerial organization and to apply policies that encourage uniform production, the potentials of economic components and structures within the artisan industry and handicraft sector have not yet been exploited in a truly systematic and effective manner.

In 1981, the guideline for artisan industry and handicrafts is to thoroughly exploit possibilities throughout the country and in each locality and installation. New possibilities can also be created through resolute efforts to overcome the above-mentioned shortcomings and failures. The most important tasks must be to concentrate on meeting the agricultural sector's requirements and stepping up the production of consumer and export goods. Since the volume of supplies and raw materials provided by the state does not increase, it is necessary to expand production to manufacture more goods than in the past. This demand is placed on all sectors of which the one with the strength to fully meet it is the artisan industry and handicraft sector.

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